

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 08652 171420Z
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S E C R E T CAIRO 08652

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PPDC, EG, US, IS, LE
SUBJECT: LETTER FOR PRESIDENT CARTER FROM PRESIDENT SADAT

1. FONMIN KAMEL TELEPHONED EARLY THIS AFTERNOON TO SAY THAT HIS CHEF DE CABINET, AHMED MAHER, WOULD COME BY SHORTLY WITH A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT SADAT TO PRESIDENT CARTER. PRESIDENT SADAT WAS ANXIOUS THAT THE LETTER BE BROUGHT TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S ATTENTION ASAP. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS MAHER APPEARED AND PROVIDED TEXT OF LETTER. TEXT FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE:

DEAR PRESIDENT CARTER,

- I HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE EFFORTS THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS EXERTING TO INSURE THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON. AND BRDNOIEV LEARNED OF THE STATEMENT OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN THIS REGARD.

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- WHILE THANKING YOU FOR THESE EFFORTS, I WOULD LIKE, IN THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP THAT REQUIRES ABSOLUTE FRANKNESS, TO POINT OUT TO YOU THAT THIS WITHDRAWAL SHOULD TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY. THE ISRAELIS SHOULD BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION, RESULTING FROM THEIR MASSIVE ATTACK AND THEIR CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF LARGE PORTIONS OF SOUTHERN LEBANON, IS

FRAUGHT WITH GRAVE DANGERS AND CREATES MOUNTING TENSIONS WHICH MIGHT HARM THE PEACE PROCESS TO WHICH WE BOTH ARE FIRMLY COMMITTED. ISRAEL SHOULD REALIZE THAT ITS ACTIONS WHICH ARE CLEARLY DISPROPORTIONATE WITH THE BUS ACCIDENT WHICH I PUBLICLY DEPLORED, PROVIDES ARGUMENTS TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL IS NOT SINCERE IN ITS DESIRE TO MEET OUR RESOLVE TO REACH A JUST, LASTING AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE.

- I WOULD THEREFORE SUBMIT THAT YOU SHOULD PERSONALLY INTERVENE, MR. PRESIDENT, TO IMPRESS UPON THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT THE NECESSITY OF AN EARLY WITHDRAWAL.

- AS TO THE PROBLEM OF SECURITY, WHICH I HAVE ALREADY FULLY RECOGNIZED, I THINK IT COULD BE PARTIALLY MET BY THE IDEA OF STATIONING EITHER THE LEBANESE ARMY OR U.N. FORCES ON THE BORDERS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND LEBANON. BUT THIS SHOULD, IN MY OPINION, BE LINKED WITH THE ACCEPTANCE BY ISRAEL OF, AT LEAST, YOUR FORMULATION ON THE SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN ALL ITS ASPECTS. THIS, IN FACT, IS THE ONLY WAY OF INSURING DURABLE SECURITY, AND PREVENTING FRUSTRATED PALESTINIANS FROM CONTINUING TO BE DRIVEN ON THE PATH OF VIOLENCE.

- I THINK THAT WE HAVE A REAL CHANCE TO TURN THESE REGRETTABLE INCIDENTS INTO AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUSH OUR
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EFFORTS TOWARDS PEACE. BUT THE FIRST ORDER OF THE DAY SHOULD BE A WITHDRAWAL TAKING PLACE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE, FOLLOWED BY IMMEDIATE STEPS IN THE DIRECTION I HAVE INDICATED.

- I AM SURE THAT YOU SHARE WITH ME THE VIEW THAT URGENT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN IN ORDER TO AVOID CREATING CONDITIONS FURTHER COMPLICATING OUR COMMON EFFORTS TO REACH A PEACE SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD PUT AN END TO A LONG AND UNFORTUNATE HISTORY OF TENSIONS, STRIFE AND BLOODSHED.

- WITH MY BEST REGARDS, MOHAMED ANWAR EL SADAT

MARCH 17, 1978

UNQUOTE. EILTS

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